श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : श्रीमन् मैं यह बताना चाहूंगा कि माननीय मंत्री जी जब वहां पर एम० एल० ए० थीं तो उनके वक्त में वहां से सोने की चोरी हुई थी। उनको इसकी सूचना होगी। वे इसको छिपाने की कोशिश न करें ... (**व्यवधान**)

श्री पी० वी० नरसिंह राव : ऐसी बात नहीं है। यह म्यूजियम हमारी देखरेख में नहीं है। यह राज्य सरकार की देखरेख में है। आप हमें जो भी सूचना देंगे हम उसके संबंध में सूचना मंगाकर उस हद तक जिस हद तक राज्य सरकार हमें देगी, आपको बता देंगे। यही तो हम कर सकते हैं।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : मैंने कहा है कि वहां पर चोरी हुई है।

श्री पी० वी० नरसिंह राव : हमें इसकी तफसील तो मालूम नहीं है ....(**व्यवधान**)

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : यह सवाल तो टेक ओवर से संबंधित है, चोरी से संबंधित नहीं है (**व्यवधान**) ...

श्री रजनी रंजन साहू : श्रीमन् यह संग्रहालय बहुमूल्य सामानों से भरा हुआ है। मेरा सुझाव यह है कि क्या सरकार इसमें सुधार लाने के लिए इसको अपने अन्तर्गत लेने के लिए विचार कर रही हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are putting the same question.

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही: सुझाव तो बहुमूल्य है।

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, would the hon. Minister tell us, what are the norms on the basis of which a museum, in any part of the country, can be taken over by the Central Government?

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : : सभापति महोदय, मैंने पहले ही कहा है कि संविधान के अनुसार संग्रहालय राज्य सरकारों का विषय है। परन्तु संसद यदि समझे तो उस संग्रहालय को राष्ट्रीय महत्व का दर्जा दिया जा सकता है और संविधान के माध्यम से किसी संग्रहालय की व्यवस्था की जा सकती है। यदि कोई निकाय प्रस्ताव करके भेजता है तो उस पर भारत सरकार विचार कर सकती है जैसा कि पहले इलाहाबाद म्यूजियम के बारे में किया गया है।

Origin of AIDS

*326. SHRI N. E. BALRAM:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:†

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 10th November, 1986 to the effect that the deadly disease AIDS is the result of a failre in biological warfare research in the US and has nothing to do with the green monkeys of Central Africa; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto by way of verification of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Initial investigations by US scientists suggest that the AIDS virus might have arisen as a result of mutation from Simian lymphotrophic viruses existent as an infecting organism in African green monkeys. According to our experts, so far there is no definite evidence that AIDS virus was the result of biological warfare experiments.

(b) Does not arise.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very sorry that the Hon. Minister has so much of confidence in the U.S. scientists' version because there have been other versions also in the world which have not been taken into consideration by the hon. Minister. As far as I remember, Dr. John Sill, an eminent British scientist has stated recently, he has actually challanged, that AIDS did not originate in Central Africa nor among the green monkeys but it is genetically engineered in a US army laboratory. There are many more scientists who have come out with the same version. Unfortunately, these versions could not find any place in the statement that has been prepared by the Minister. As far as I remember, Sir, AIDS first appeared in New York 1979. Just two years back a laboratory was set up by the U.S. military personnel for gene manipulation for military purposes. Within two years of the setting up of this laboratory this virus appeared.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are giving a lot of information.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Just to frame the question. Not only that, about 8 years back the Defence Department of USA while giving their statement before an Appropriate Committee stated that within a span of five to ten years they may be able to prepare a micro-organism which would be different in certain important respects from any other known diseases causing organism. Most important will be—might be—reflectory o immunological and therapeutic properties. (*Interruptions*). Therefore, my question is, even after it is evidenced, why does the Government believe that there is no link between the militarisation drive of the U.S. imperialists through experiments, making use of germs and biological methods? Why does the Government not believe that there can be a link like that? Why do they categorically say that there is no such link?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: We have never said that we believe this or that. What has happened is, several versions have appeared in regard to the genesis of this. The latest is by Dr. and Mrs. Segal about the question that has specifically been raised. What we have done is, we have only one authoritative body in this country. Fortunately, there is no conflict between authorities. That authoritative body in all these matters is the Indian Council of Medical Research. The Indian Council of Medical Research has examined newspaper report on the statement of Dr. and Mrs. Segal that AIDS virus is the result of gene manipulations of pathogenes for military use and is thus a consequence of US experiments on biological warfare. The ICMR is contacting the researchers to obtain their full report on the subject and is also ascertaining the reactions of other scientists to the reported observations of Dr. and Mrs. Segal. Meanwhile, scrutiny of the available literature has not, let me say, has not yet provided any clue to the possible origin of virus through experiments of biological warfare. This is the present position, but it is still in the pipeline. Our most authoritative body in these matters is going into it in all its details.

So I cannot say whether I believe this or disbelieve that. It will be premature on the part of Government to say anything to this effect.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: What the Minister-in-Charge has said in the course of his answer to the supplementary should have found a place in the answer that he had given in the beginning.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I agree, Sir.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: You agree there? Sir, let it be noted.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Then the first supplementary would have been obviated by that.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I thank the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The answer should be so framed that there are no supplementaries.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I agree, Sir.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: My second supplementary is, Mr. Narasimha Rao is definitely aware that in 1972 there was a Bacteriological any Toxic Weapons International Convention and American imperialism refused to ratify that Convention. Mr. Nixon had banned bacteriological warfare, but Mr. Reagan has revived it, and the present American administration is spending 66 million dollars on experimentation and preparation of such warfare.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question does not appear to be relevant.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I am coming to my point, Sir. I want to know whether the Government is aware that some such experiments have been carried out on the soil of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In respect of AIDS?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: No, not in respect of AIDS.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then the question is not relevant. You must confine yourself to AIDS.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, let me put the question. The moot political question is, American imperialism is making use of.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: I can't allow it. If you don't put your question in one minute...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I am coming to it, Sir. I want to know whether Government is aware that experiments are being carried on in different parts of the world, including India, for germ warfare which is leading to the infection of AIDS. And as for reference, I can cite the experiments on...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question not relevant. Mr. Kadharsha. You please sit down.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: My point is...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No more points. Mr. Kadharsha.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Only a straight line.

SHRI M. KADHARSHA: We are not concerned with the report whether it is due to black money or white money. Our concern as a layman is whether India is having all equipment, because there are reports that even test kits are not available in India. I would like to know whether India is fully equipped to face it if there is any problem of AIDS.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: Sir, monkeys are Dravidians.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: This is a very broad question. Fortunately the incidence that has been found so far is very very limited and

there is no need to take an alarmist view. We will certainly be prepared when it comes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kalmadi. There are Aryan monkeys and Dravidian monkeys.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: The incidence of AIDS or rock disease, as it is popularly called in the United States, is highly prevalent in the United States of America. Sir, America has a lot of firsts in many fields. They are the first to claim/credit for this also. But for the social problem they are very quick to pass on the buck to the African monkey. In India, as the Minister has just now told us, it is not at all widely prevalent; actually it is a very very minor problem. But there have been advertisements on Doordarshan and All India Radio bringing in the enormity of AIDS in the country and because of that the blood donation levels have come down very alarmingly, as has been stated at so many conferences by Leela Malgaonkar. I want to know whether ICMR, which is a body doing research in India, has established hundred per cent that AIDS is transmitted through blood transfusion. If it is not, then I think you should go in for a counter-propaganda that it is not due to blood donation. Because, today every hospital in the country is facing this serious problem because of this false propaganda, and it is being put through over All India Radio and television. If this is not correct, will the Ministry of Health direct Doordarshan not to come out with these ads. anymore?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, studies undertaken so far have revealed that as a result of the appearance or the reported appearance of AIDS, the blood donation in this country has not gone down. But I take the point that if you rub something in too much, it could have a counter-productive effect. What has been done, as far as I know, on the TV, is to flag the question, just to say that there is a very deadly disease like this; although there is no need to take an alarmist view, its incidence is very very low, yet it is necessary to be aware of it. Now, if something more has been done as a result of which blood donations are being inhibited, I will certainly look into it. But, as far as is revealed by the studies undertaken so far in Delhi and some other places, that is not the case. But I will always keep this in view.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, a leading doctor from the United Kingdom who has visited India recently has stated in Madras last week that the United Kingdom as well as the United States failed to realize the imminent danger in the initial stages and also he has warned that it is going to be the biggest problem, a dangerous problem, for India by the end of 2000. Sir, two days back a news appeared — which has given some hope — that Tibetan method of treatment has given very good results. I would like to know whether the Government will study this Tibetan method of treatment.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: We will study it, Sir, if it is there.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Sir,... (*Interruptions*).

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Are you also affected?... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Sir, I am not a Minister. How can I be affected and answer this question? ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: What is happening?

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: The question of how AIDS originated need not entirely be a subject—matter for

ICMR. Whether it was part of preparation for biological or genetical warfare, this question can be aswered independently of the ICMR also. Now I do not know whether we have such agencies to find out whether such a thing did happen or not but, in any case, would the Minister agree to communicate, via the External Affairs Ministry, perhaps, to the Govenmernt of United States—because we have Government to Government contacts —that in India such a question has arisen that the Government of United States has in fact generated this through their warfare measures and that such a view is there? Can we communicate to them and seek clarifications from them?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: That such a view is there or may be there is already known to everyone who reads the proceedings of Parliament and newspapers. It would be a very wrong thing for us, from a Government to another Government, to suggest any such thing.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Sir, I read a banner in Bombay the other day in Marine Drive "Is life worth while with raids and AIDS?" This disease is a gift of the USA to the world. The monkeys are in Africa but the highest incidence is in the USA. May be this is due to biological warfare going haywire, may be due to sex perversity. But, may I know from the Minister that since it is the Americans who are unleashing this sort of a misery on the people, whether he would take steps, to ensure that people visiting from America get a health certificate before they could come to India?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: That must be done.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: We have our own health regulations and we are quite well known for enforcing them very rigidly. So the honourable Member may rest assured that in the enforcement of our regulations, whatever needs to be done from time to time will be done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

F.C.I. Claims Against Railways

*322. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that outstanding claims of Food Corporation of Indian on account of non-delivery of foodgrain wagons against railways have mounted to crores of rupees;

(b) if so, what is the total amount of outstanding claims of the Food Corporation of India against railways at present; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to clear the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The claims of Food Corporation of India for non-delivery of wagons are adjusted against wagons delivered to them at diverted stations. After the adjustment, which is done from time to time, at present, no amount of compensation is payable to them on this account.

*327. [Transferred to the 28th November, 1986].

Supply of steel by Bhilai Steel Plant to railways

*328. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:
DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways had placed large orders for supply of about 1.41 lakh tonnes of steel with the Bhilai steel plant;